DC
SUPERMAN IN ACTION COMICS
2002
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JAN 02
KELLY
ROULEAU
ALQUIZA
ME BACK!
BIZARRO #1
DIRECT SALES
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SCENE 13: HALF AN HOUR LATER...
UMMMMM
SNAP
NOW ME FORGET!
ME GOING TO STAND STILL INTO THE WORLD NOW AND MURDER AND HURT AND PILLAGE AS MANY PEOPLES AS I CAN --
--JUST LIKE SUPERMAN WOULD NOT WANT ME TO DO!
SPIT IT OUT, YOU LUMMOX, SO WE CAN BE DONE WITH YOU!
HEH HEH
GOOD FOR YOU, EGG... GOOD FOR YOU.
THE END.
NEXT ISSUE: SUPERMAN! ALIENS! REVAMPED VILLAIN! AFTER THIS ISSUE, YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT CRAZINESS IS COMING NEXT!

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SCENE 12: POKOLISTAN. THE GORGE.
AMAZING... I MEAN REALLY, LIKE MIND-BLOWING AMAZING. I'VE BEEN UP TO MY HOO-HAHS IN HAPPY HORSE MUCK MY WHOLE LIFE, BUT THIS...
SOMEONE LOOKED FOR YOU. YOU. A MENTAL DEFICIENT PITUITARY ACCIDENT WITH GRAMMATICAL DYSLEXIA.
SOMEONE ACTUALLY TRIED TO FIND YOU, BUT ME... NOT EVEN A GOLD WATCH AND A —
FORGET IT. PAR FOR THE FREAKIN' COURSE...
SO SINCE YOU WERE TOO DUMB TO DIE WITH DIGNITY, DID YA AT LEAST FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKIN' FOR?
NO. DEAD SUPERMAN LEFT ME TO DIE, AND NOW...
... ME HAVE NO HOPE. FOR THE LAST TIME IN A SHORT WHILE... ME HAVE NO HOPE.
YOU'RE WELCOME FOR YOUR HELP, AND YOU TOO IMPS FOR DRIVING ME SANE AND BEING SO NICE TO ME —
PLEASE... JUST STOP TALKING. STOP TALKING AND GO.
I WON'T! BUT NOW I MUST STAY! I HAVE NOTHING IMPORTANT TO —
I — UM...
WHAT ME NOT DO AGAIN?
HERE WE GO AGAIN. HELL. ANYONE GOT A SANDWICH? THE PAPER? PLEASE STAB ME IN THE EARS SO I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN. I HAVE A PENCIL.

SOMETIMES THE WORLD... FEELS STACKED AGAINST US. LIKE ALL OF THE SUPPORT WE'VE HAD IS GONE, AND WHAT REMAINS IS JUST... FEAR.
UH-UH...
I KNOW THAT'S HOW YOU'VE BEEN FEELING... AND TONIGHT, I HESITATED... OUT OF THAT SAME FEAR.
BLARFFOOSH
WAIT... I THOUGHT THIS WAS GOING TO MAKE MORE DEAD PEOPLE... DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND A WORD HE'S SAYING, BIZZY?
YES, BUT SUPERMAN IS A BAD GUY, EVEN IF HE MAKES PERFECT SENSE SOMETIMES. HE NOT SO VERY DUMB --
HSSSS
BUT HE HAS A NON-SOOTHING MANVOICE TO LISTEN TO.
FORGET THIS. LET'S GET BACK HOME. "LOVE CRUISE" IS ON.
NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO FEEL THAT WAY... FEEL SO ALONE.
"LOVE CRUISE"? OH... WE STAY, NOW?
SO I'LL MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU. COME WITH ME, BACK TO THE WORLD, AND TOGETHER WE CAN --
HSSSSSHS
...
DUPED BY BIZARRO.
ME AM SO SMART.
YOU'RE WELCOME, IMPS. THAT WAS FAR!
SHUT UP AND DIE. WE HATE YOU. YOU'RE LIKE NUTELLA AND BACON FAT.
YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.
HE SHOWED? HE ACTUALLY SHOWED? FOR YOU?

IT AM BEGINNING? FINALLY BEGINNING NOW?
N-NO... YOU'RE IN DANGER, BIZARRO. YOU'RE IN DANGER NOW.
YOU'RE WELCOME, SUPERMAN. YOU'RE WELCOME SO LITTLE.
BIZARRO, I... I DON'T WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU --
WHY? ME ALL WORSE NOW! WATCH, ME NO SHOW YOU!!
NO, I... OH BOY...
METHINKS I DON'T LIKE THE CURVES OF THIS, BOYOS...

...
URK
THIS WILL BE REMEMBERED
COME TO POKOLISTAN AGAIN, AND SUFFER THE WRATH OF HELL.
ALL RIGHT... EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL.
EVERYONE'S OKAY.
YOU CAN STOP SHAKING NOW.

SUPERMAN.
TRESPASSING.
AN ACT OF WAR.
WAIT...
...YOUR PARTY.
WOULD BE A SHAME IF YOUR TRUE COLORS POPPED OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT DOG AND PONY SHOW BACK THERE.
BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW THIS GOES DOWN, YOU CAN BET I'LL MAKE SURE IT HAPPENS IN THERE IN FRONT OF THE WORLD.

SCENE 11: POKOLISTAN. THE FOREST. A HEARTBEAT LATER...
YOU... DEAD?
YOU STAY AWAY... FOR ME?
NO! IT'S A TRICK! SUPERMAN IS DEAD -- I MEAN ALIVE! HE'S VERY, VERY ALIVE! FALL INTO DESPAIR!
UH-OH... I SMELL RESOLUTION HERE...

SCENE 10: METROPOLIS...
THEY SAID SHE WAS SCREAMING FOR SUPERMAN!
GOTTA TELL YOU, I'M SHOCKED THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN MORE OFTEN. NOT THAT I'M COMPLAINING.
POLICE LINE
DAMN. WHAT WAS SO BAD THAT THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD GET HELP...?
BAITING FOR SUPERMAN?
MPD
HEY, MO. HOW BAD?
THE WORST. YOUNG GIRL. STREET DIVE. THE ONLY PLUS --
--FOR SOME REASON I CAN'T SEE -- NO BLOOD.
YOU'RE KIDDING. JEEZ...
NEXT TIME SHE'LL HAVE TO PICK A HIGHER BUILDING TO DO IT RIGHT.
NICE. REAL --
--NICE.
A HIGHER BUILDING?
AH-HA!
THANKS FOR THE TIP, BOYS!

BIZARRO... AM TOOL...
...BIZARRO NOT A PERSON!
YOU ARE WEAK. YOU ARE AN IMPERFECT COPY OF MY ENEMY.
I CAN LEARN NO MORE FROM YOU.

IF SUPERMAN COMES... HE'LL KNOW.
HE'LL KNOW CLARK KENT IS --

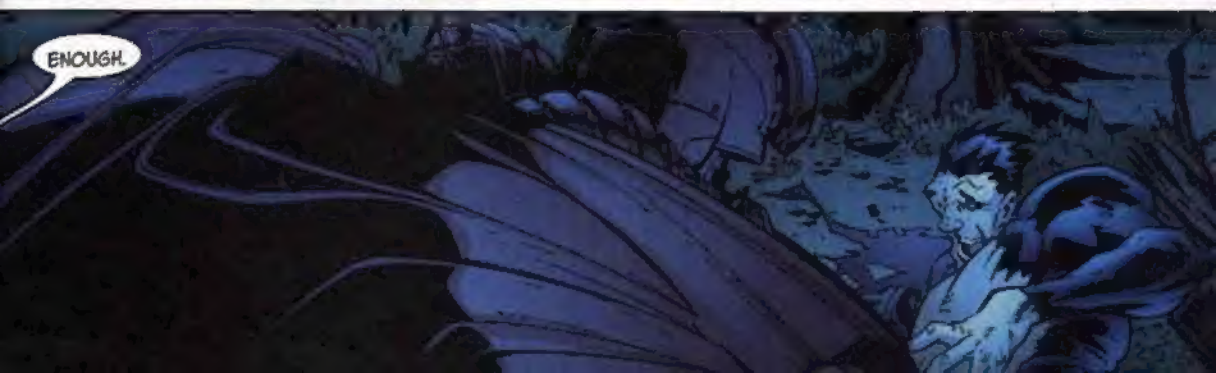
YES... ME... AM -- ORDINARY! ME HAVE NO RIGHT TO NICE PARTY AND RESPECT AND TO LIVE!

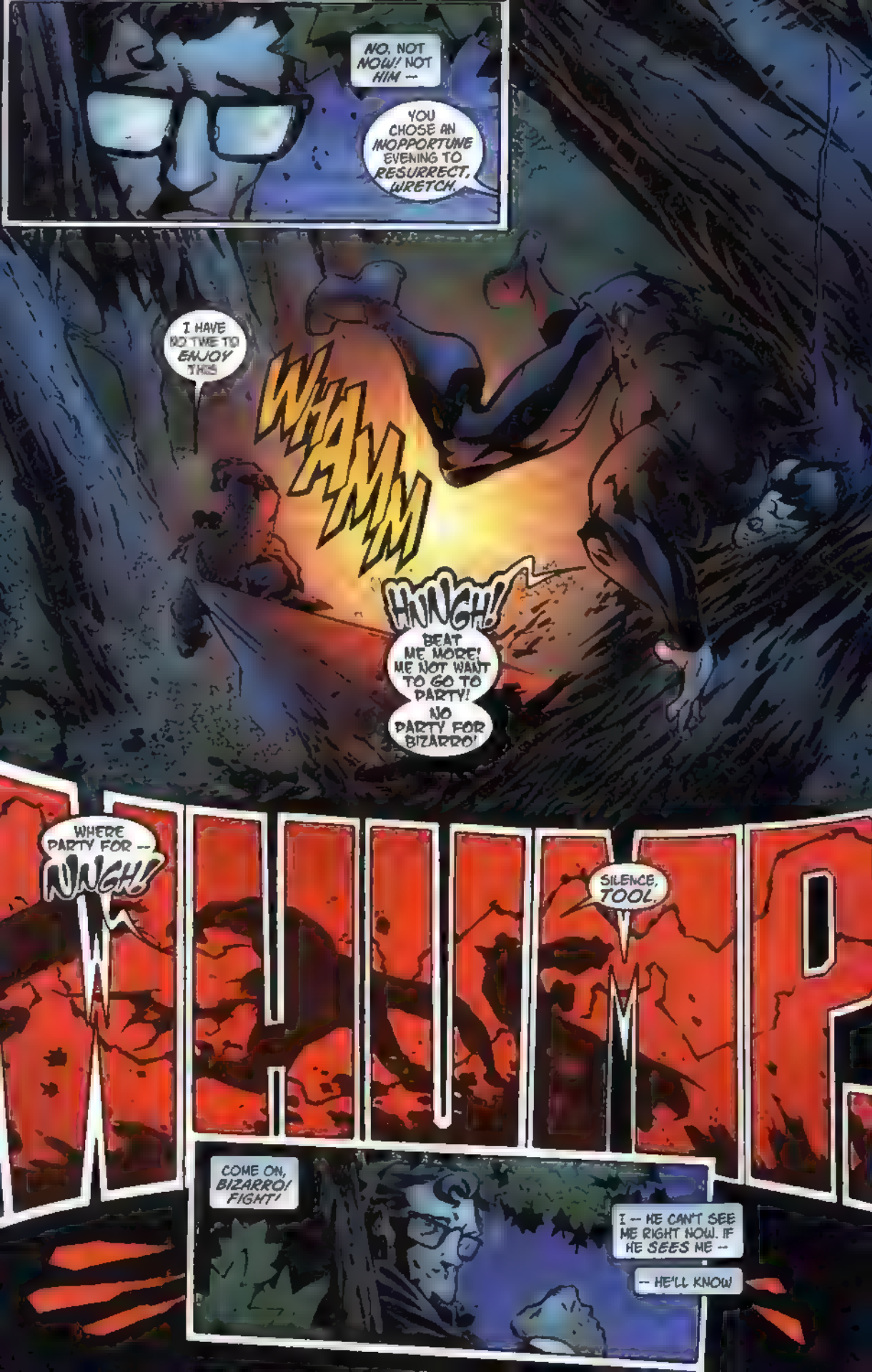
HE CAN'T KNOW... I CAN'T BLOW IT FOR LOIS --
AN ABORTIVE WASTE. THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE. NOT EVEN WORTHY OF THE TITLE "CASUALTY."

YOU WILL DIE NOW...
WAMMM
...UNLOVED.

AN ABOMINATION.
S-S-SUPERMAN... WH-WHY YOU... COME?
Y-YOU ALIVE..?

HE'LL KNOW.
SUPERMAN ALIVE...
HE'LL KNOW... HE --
UNLOVED.
SUPERMAN...


ENOUGH.


NO. NOT NOW! NOT HIM --
YOU CHOSE AN INOPPORTUNE EVENING TO RESURRECT, WRETCH.
I HAVE NO TIME TO ENJOY THIS
WHAMM
HUNGH!
BEAT ME MORE! ME NOT WANT TO GO TO PARTY!
NO PARTY FOR BIZARRO!
WHERE PARTY FOR -- NWGH!
SILENCE, TOOL.
WHUMP
COME ON, BIZARRO! FIGHT!
I -- HE CAN'T SEE ME RIGHT NOW. IF HE SEES ME --
-- HE'LL KNOW

ME WAS LEAVING ON MOON WHEN IGNITION FIND ME AND OFFER NICE PROMISE. THEN, WITH MUCH TIME TO GET READY, HE TAKES ME TO GO TO THE HOLE.
THE GENERAL HE HATE TO PLAY NICE WITH ME. HATE TO PUNCH AND KICK ME TO FEEL WHAT IT LIKE NOT TO PUNCH AND KICK SUPERMAN.
SUPERMAN #164 ED.
ME TRY NOT TO FIGHT BACK, BUT... ZOD TOO WEAK.
NEVERY DAY... WE PLAY.
I DON'T CRY. I DON'T CRY.
THEN, ME FORGET... SUPERMAN!
WHEN SOMEONE FEEL HAPPY, SUPERMAN HURT. WHEN SOMEONE NOT CRY, SUPERMAN MAKE THEM FEEL WORSE.
SUPERMAN HURT THE HELPLESS, AND ME WAS VERY HURTLESS... ME KNOW SUPERMAN NOT COME LATER.
THEN, THE WORLD IMPLODE! ME HEAR MEN WHISPER ABOUT WAR AND TINY FIREBALL EAT THE HOLE AND GUARDS AND BIZARRO.
THE IMPERIEX PROBE THE WAR.
BUT BIZARRO NO LIVE, EVEN THOUGH ME HOPE TO.
ME GO TO HEAVEN AGAIN FOR A WHILE -- DIFFERENT HEAVEN. PLAY WITH ANGELS. MEET FRIENDLY IMPS.
HOWDY
SHUT UP
I WILL EAT YOUR SPLEEN.
THEY TELL ME SUPERMAN ALIVE. TELL ME ABOUT PARTY TO MOURN.
BIZARRO.. SUPERMAN IS DEAD.
NO... YOU TELL TRUTH. IF SUPERMAN DEAD. WHY HE COME? WHERE HE NOW?
HE... HE'S AROUND, HE JUST -- HE ISN'T HERE... NOW!
UH-OH. HE GOES.
BIZARRO
HHNNSH!
STAY IN OPEN! BE SEEN!
WHOOSH

SCENE 9: POKOLISTAN: THE FOREST...
IT MOCKS YOU.
BREAK IT IN TWO.
KILL IT.
YOU COMING FROM PARTY? PARTY FOR PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN WAR?
NO — I — WELL... I HAVEN'T GOTTEN THERE YET
OH... YOU LOOK UGLY.
UH — THANK YOU... BIZARRO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
BIZARRO #1
LITTLE FRIENDS, HAPPY IMPS WITH LOUD VOICES TELL ME THERE IS PARTY FOR SURVIVORS OF WAR.
PARTIES BAD FOR MOURNING. BIZARRO HAVE LITTLE TO MOURN.
UM, I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD BE EXPLAINING THIS — NO — YOU DO THINK SO! REMEMBER THE LANGUAGE! DON'T SMASH MAN WITH GLASSES!
TALK MORE, IMPS. ME THRILLED WITH BEATING PEOPLE...
SUPERMAN AM ALIVE. YOU NOT HEAR?
SUPERMAN? SOMEHOW I THINK YOU MAY BE WRON— I MEAN, RASHT. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT?
ME SPEND VERY SHORT PLEASANT TIME IN HEAVEN BEING TOUCHED GENTLY BY GENERAL ZOD.
IT AN BEST EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE. OF ANY LIFE. IF SUPERMAN DEAD, HE WOULDN'T HAVE REVIVED ME.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

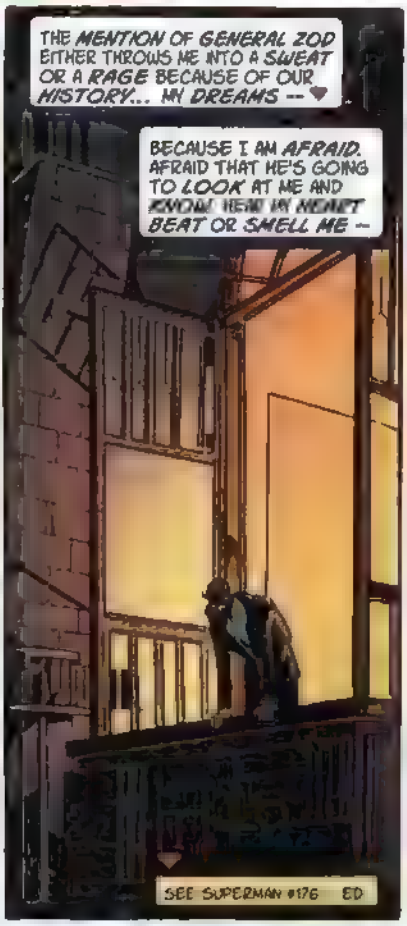
POKOLISTAN AT THE GALA...
IT'S WHAT WE CALL A "CINDERELLA STORY." YOU'RE EUROPEAN, CERTAINLY YOU KNOW IT.
ONE DAY THE SCOURGE OF EUROPE, GOOSE-STEPPING THROUGH BERLIN ... THE NEXT, THEY'RE HANDING HIM THE KEY TO THE CONTINENT.
I KNOW NOT OF WHAT YOU MEAN, MISTER PRESIDENT.
FORGIVE ME, FAORA, THIS LITTLE EXHIBIT MUST BE KILLING THE TWO OF YOU. I SHOULDN'T BE RUBBING SALT INTO THE WOUND. SO LET'S FORGET POLITICS.
LET'S TALK MONSTERS...
-- THE ULTIMATE FUTURE OF POKOLISTAN LIES WITH THE WORLD. WE WILL BECOME A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE FORCE IN THE WORLD OF POLITICS. NEXT.
CAN YOU TELL US THE SIGNIFICANCE OF YOUR ARMOR --
HISTORICAL. THIS IS THE CEREMONIAL DRESS THAT WAS WORN BY CLAN LEADERS IN OUR PROUD DAYS PAST. IT SYMBOLIZES STRENGTH -- HONOR --
ENDURANCE.
FAORA, WE HAVE A SITUATION. THE TOOL LIVES. HE'S IN THE FOREST.
IMPOSSIBLE. IT WAS DESTROYED WITH THE COMPOUND WHEN YOU DISABLED IMPERIEX --
IT LIVES. NO ONE IS TO LEAVE UNTIL I RETURN

SCENE 7: POKOLISTAN IN THE FOREST...
I KNOW NO ONE SAW ME LEAVE. I KNOW I DODGED THE CAMERAS.
SO WHY IS MY HEART BEATING LIKE THE FIRST TIME I EVER SPENT THE NIGHT IN THE WOODS?
THIS WAS AN EVEN WORSE IDEA THAN TAKING THIS ASSIGNMENT IN THE FIRST --
YOU MUST NOT LET ME GO TO PARTY!
ME NO WANT TO SHOW MY HATE!
BIZARRO?
WHO AM CALLING ME?
WHO IS THAT CHUMP?
HURT THEM ALL GENTLY
ESPECIALLY THE STIFF IN THE SUIT.
HUSH DOWN!
UM... IT'S ME CLARK... YOUR ENEMY?
OH. AGGRESSIVE-MANNERED REPORTER. WRONG... ONE SECOND, CLARK. ME HAVE SOMETHING TO START HERE.
CHAOS
8

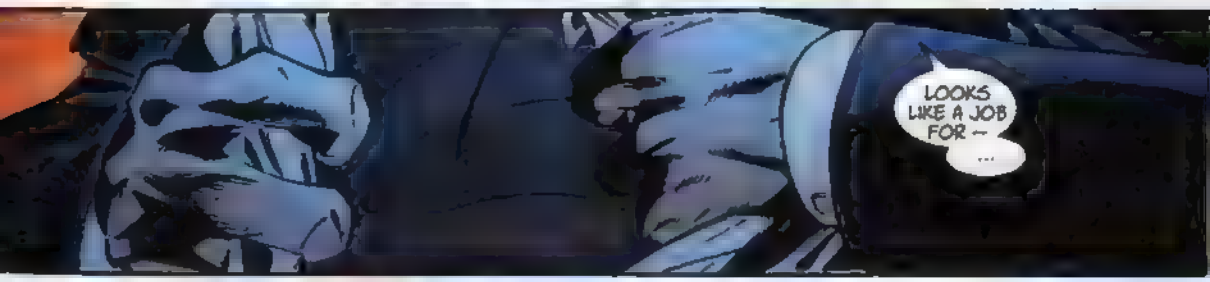
SCENE 6: METROPOLIS..
MEANWHILE, BACK IN METROPOLIS..
SHE HAS PICKED THIS BUILDING, BECAUSE, NEXT TO THE LEXCORP TOWER, IT IS THE HIGHEST WHILE STILL BEING ACCESSIBLE.
WELL OVER ONE HUNDRED STORIES, WHICH WILL GIVE HER PLENTY OF TIME.
SHE'S DONE THE MATH.
ALMOST THIRTY-NINE SECONDS.
PLENTY OF TIME FOR HER TO BE CAUGHT BY --
SUPERMAN!!
UNFORTUNATELY FOR SALLY AND THE EMPTY BUS BELOW...
CHOOM
OUT OF SERV
SHE DIDN'T REALIZE SUPERMAN WOULD STILL BE HALFWAY ACROSS THE GLOBE.

SCENE 5: POKOLISTAN
THE EMBASSY COMPOUND
VERY WELL, MISTER KENT, I SHALL GIVE YOUR REGARDS TO THE GENERAL.
I WILL POST A GUARD OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR TO ESCORT YOU FROM THE COMPOUND SHOULD YOUR HEALTH RETURN
I — I'M SORRY, MS. TATKITOVA... I — THE FLIGHT MUST NOT HAVE AGREED WITH ME — I —

THANK YOU.
AND WITH THAT... CLARK KENT DODGES HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT EVER IDIOT.
WHY DID I COME? THIS... THIS ISN'T THE USUAL. IT JUST ISN'T.


THE MENTION OF GENERAL ZOD EITHER THROWS ME INTO A SWEAT OR A RAGE BECAUSE OF OUR HISTORY... MY DREAMS —
BECAUSE I AM AFRAID. AFRAID THAT HE'S GOING TO LOOK AT ME AND KNOW! HEAR MY HEART BEAT OR SMELL ME —
SEE SUPERMAN #176 ED

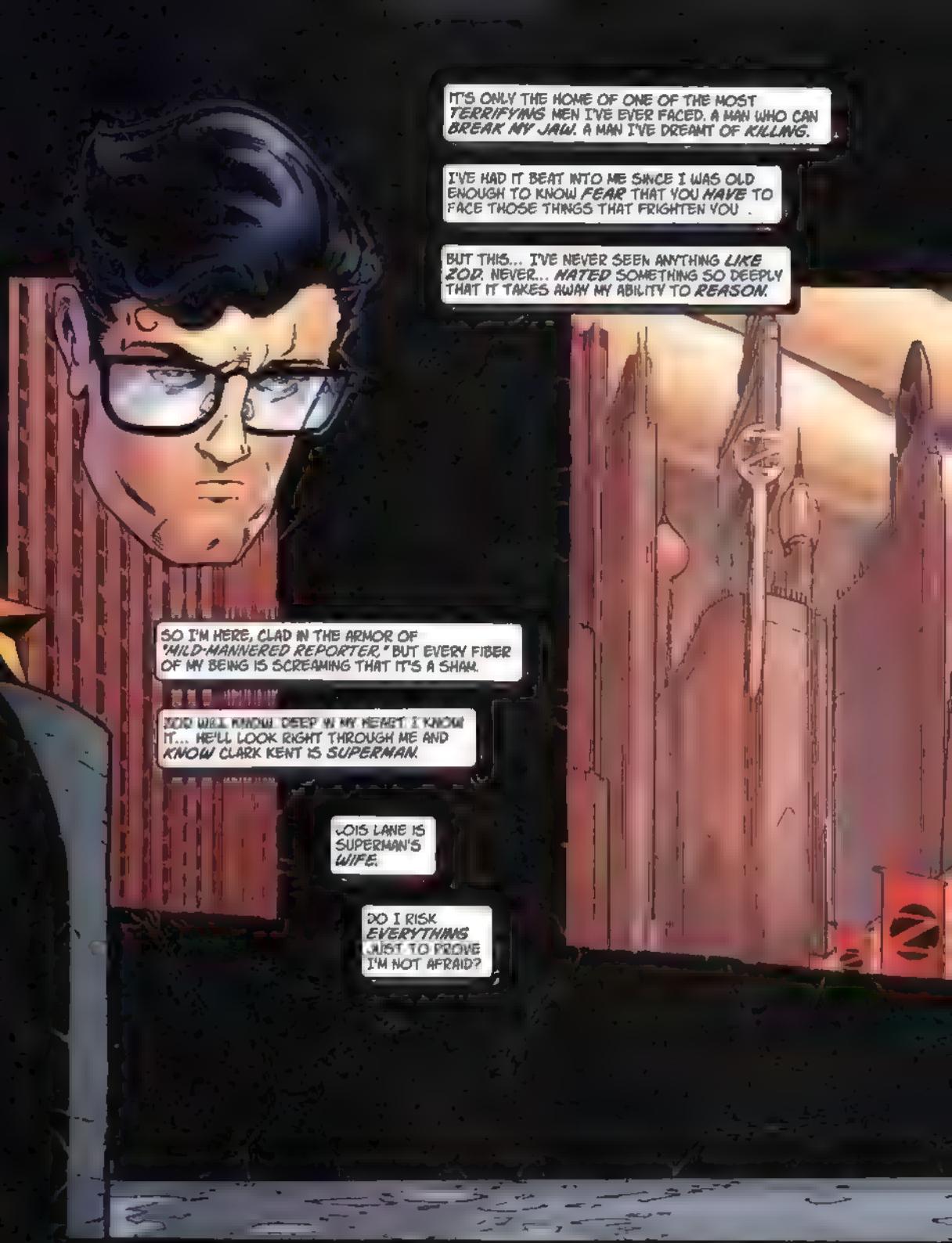
AND HE'LL KNOW. HE'LL KNOW CLARK KENT IS SUPERMAN
ONE OF US WILL DIE. I KNOW IT —
WHOA. IS THAT A TANK ON FIRE?


LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR —
...

NO BLACK... BLACK IS BETTER FOR NIGHT TIME.
RIGHT

CLARK IN POKOLISTAN, A FEW MILES AWAY AT THE GALA
QUITE THE SPREAD, ISN'T IT, CHANCELLOR? THE PLACE NEVER LOOKED THIS GOOD UNDER YOUR TENANCY --
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT SHUT UP, MERE PRESIDENT
WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE IS GOOD.
THE WORLD IS A BETTER PLACE, BECAUSE POKOLISTAN EXISTS, NOT AS A HISTORICAL ARTIFACT --
BUT A NATION. A PARTNER
THE FACT THAT WE ALL CONTINUE TO BREATHE RATHER THAN LIE "HOLLOWED" IN A DEATH MACHINE FROM THE STARS IS TESTAMENT TO THAT.
AS POKOLISTAN FOUGHT TO DELIVER THE WORLD TO VICTORY IN ITS DARKEST HOUR, SO SHALL SHE CONTINUE TO FIGHT TO STRENGTHEN AND ENRICH HER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY!
THOUGH THE PATH TO THIS DAY HAS BEEN PAVED WITH DISCORD AND NO SMALL AMOUNT OF CONFUCT, THOSE DAYS ARE OVER.
YOU HAVE BEEN INVITED HERE TO WITNESS WITH YOUR OWN EYES THE GLORY WE STRUGGLED TO RECLAIM. THE GOLDEN AGE WE ASPIRE TO.. AND THAT I COULD TELL YOU ALL, PERSONALLY.
"...THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR HERE.
"NOTHING TO FEAR."
CLARK KENT DAILY PLANET

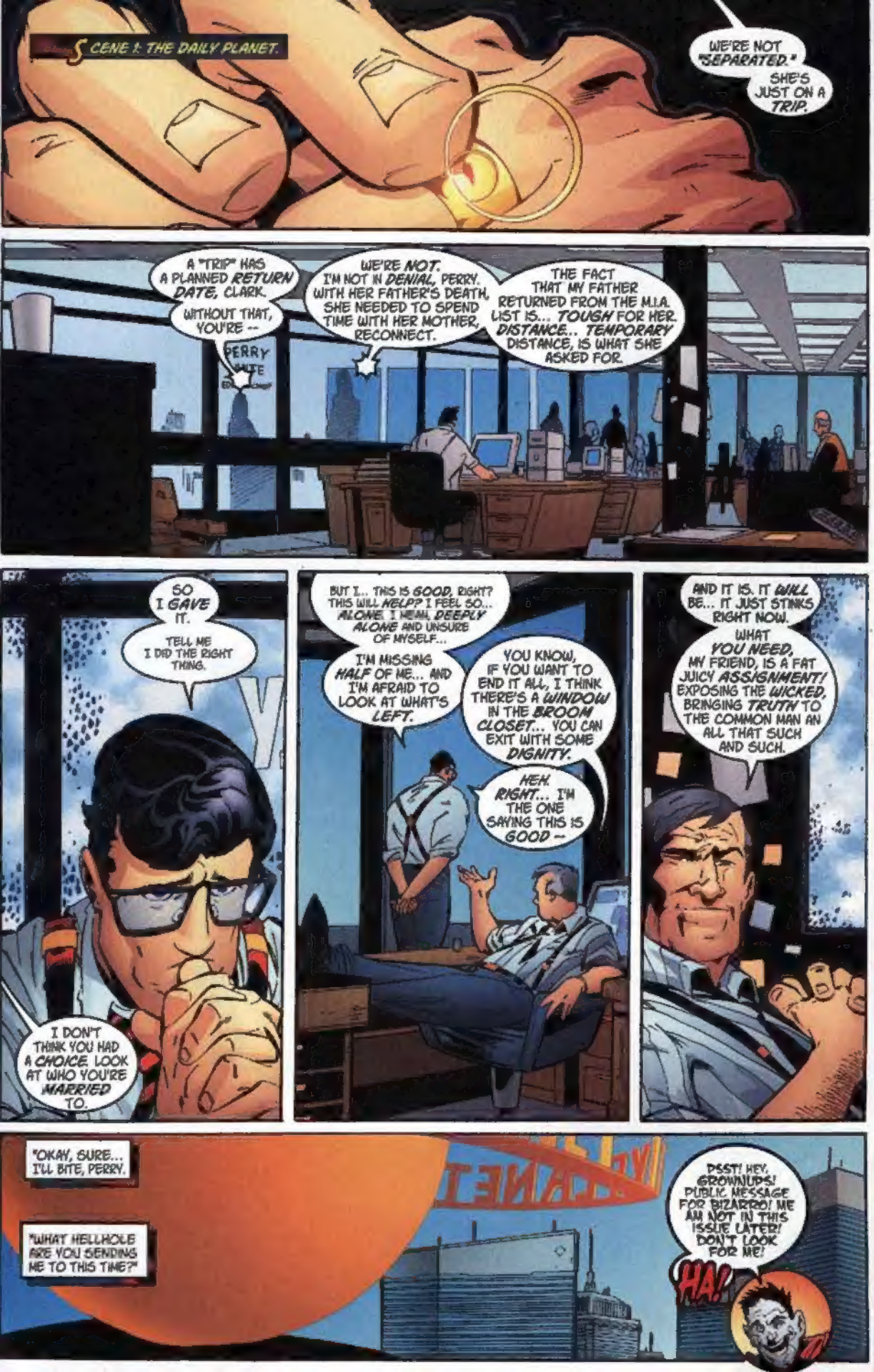
SCENE 3: POKOLISTAN. THAT NIGHT, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE COMPOUND...
THERE... THAT'S WHERE THEY LAUGH FOR DEAD MEN!
THERE THEY LOVE YOU, WANT YOU TO COME.
YOU SHOULD NOT SHOW THEM HOW TO PARTY..
BIZ
WHY... WHY THEY INVITE ME? I FOUND IN WAR TOO...
BECAUSE YOU ARE HANDSOME.
BECAUSE YOU ARE IMPORTANT
BECAUSE YOU ARE THEIR FAVORITE.
FIZZRP #1
THEY SHOULD NOT LOVE ME THEY SHOULD...
UT THINK ME LOVE THEM. ME THINK, MAYBE THEY NEED TO FEEL MY LOVE.
WOW, IS THIS EASY OR WHAT?
BABY FROM A CANDY
WHEN ME SPILLS BLOOD, WE EARN OUR WINGS... KEEP IT UP, BOYS.
HEY LOOK! HERE COMES TROUBLE.
ER -- THE ONES WHO LOVE YOU.
DON'T YOU WANT TO SAY HI?
IN THE NAME OF POKOLISTAN, YOU ARE ORDERED TO STAND DOWN --
YES. ME STAND UP -- ME NO WANT TO HURT ANYONE.
ME NO WANT TO HURT THEM VERY MUCH


IT'S ONLY THE HOME OF ONE OF THE MOST TERRIFYING MEN I'VE EVER FACED. A MAN WHO CAN BREAK MY JAW. A MAN I'VE DREAMT OF KILLING.
I'VE HAD IT BEAT INTO ME SINCE I WAS OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW FEAR THAT YOU HAVE TO FACE THOSE THINGS THAT FRIGHTEN YOU .
BUT THIS... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE ZOD. NEVER... HATED SOMETHING SO DEEPLY THAT IT TAKES AWAY MY ABILITY TO REASON.
SO I'M HERE, CLAD IN THE ARMOR OF "MILD-MANNERED REPORTER," BUT EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING IS SCREAMING THAT IT'S A SHAM.
ZOD WILL KNOW. DEEP IN MY HEART I KNOW IT... HE'LL LOOK RIGHT THROUGH ME AND KNOW CLARK KENT IS SUPERMAN.
LOIS LANE IS SUPERMAN'S WIFE.
DO I RISK EVERYTHING JUST TO PROVE I'M NOT AFRAID?

writer JOE KELLY penciller DUNCAN ROULEAU
inks MARLO ALQUIZA colors MOOSE BAUMANN letters COMICRAFT
assistant editor TOM PALMER editor EDDIE BERGANZA
SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

NOW, IT BEGINS. I PLAY THE POLITIK.
I DO THE DANCE.
I LAY OUT A BEAUTIFUL TABLE FOR MY ENEMIES AND THEY FLOCK TO IT, EVEN THE MEN WHOSE NATIONS I HAVE LIBERATED NOT TWO MONTHS BEFORE.
I WILL MAKE THEM BELIEVE I AM THEM. STUPID. POMPOUS. DUPLICITOUS.
AND ME WILL KNOW IT. HE WILL KNOW THIS IS BUT A GAME, AND IT WILL DRIVE HIM MAD.
IT WILL MAKE HIM STUPID.
HE WILL MAKE A MISTAKE... AND HE WILL BE MINE.
DEMENTO

SCENE 2: POKOLISTAN. A RESTLESS PLANE FLIGHT LATER...
-- THE CAPITAL CITY OF POKOLISTAN, RESURRECTED SEEMINGLY OVERNIGHT, IS PLAYING HOST TO A WAR VICTIMS RELIEF GALA TO AID VICTIMS OF THE IMPERIEX CONFLICT.
A STARTLING DISPLAY OF "DIPLOMACY" JUST MONTHS AFTER GENERAL ZOD "ANNEXED" THAT SAME SWATCH OF LAND FROM POLAND, AS WELL AS OTHERS FROM GERMANY AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC.
THE WORLD AT LARGE HAS BEEN FORGIVING, THUS FAR, IN LIGHT OF POKOLISTAN'S ROLE IN THE DESTRUCTION OF IMPERIEX...
ASK A SILLY QUESTION...
KEYSTONE
PARIS
YOU ARE WITH THE PRESS CORPS, YES? THE CASTLE COMPOUND IS THIS WAY.
RIGHT. THANK YOU.
IS THERE A PROBLEM, SIR?
PROBLEM? ME?
WITH ALL THESE ARMED GUARDS AND SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS AROUND --
-- HOW COULD THERE POSSIBLY BE A PROBLEM?


SCENE 1: THE DAILY PLANET.
WE'RE NOT "SEPARATED." SHE'S JUST ON A TRIP.
A "TRIP" HAS A PLANNED RETURN DATE, CLARK.
WITHOUT THAT, YOU'RE --
WE'RE NOT. I'M NOT IN DENIAL, PERRY. WITH HER FATHER'S DEATH, SHE NEEDED TO SPEND TIME WITH HER MOTHER, RECONNECT.
THE FACT THAT MY FATHER RETURNED FROM THE M.I.A. LIST IS... TOUGH FOR HER. DISTANCE... TEMPORARY DISTANCE, IS WHAT SHE ASKED FOR.
PERRY WHITE
SO I GAVE IT.
TELL ME I DID THE RIGHT THING.
I DON'T THINK YOU HAD A CHOICE. LOOK AT WHO YOU'RE MARRIED TO.
BUT I... THIS IS GOOD, RIGHT? THIS WILL HELP? I FEEL SO... ALONE. I MEAN, DEEPLY ALONE AND UNSURE OF MYSELF...
I'M MISSING HALF OF ME... AND I'M AFRAID TO LOOK AT WHAT'S LEFT.
YOU KNOW, IF YOU WANT TO END IT ALL, I THINK THERE'S A WINDOW IN THE BROOM CLOSET... YOU CAN EXIT WITH SOME DIGNITY.
HEH. RIGHT... I'M THE ONE SAYING THIS IS GOOD --
AND IT IS. IT WILL BE... IT JUST STINKS RIGHT NOW.
WHAT YOU NEED, MY FRIEND, IS A FAT JUICY ASSIGNMENT! EXPOSING THE WICKED, BRINGING TRUTH TO THE COMMON MAN AN ALL THAT SUCH AND SUCH.
"OKAY, SURE... I'LL BITE, PERRY.
"WHAT HELLHOLE ARE YOU SENDING ME TO THIS TIME?"
PSST! HEY, GROWNUPS! PUBLIC MESSAGE FOR BIZARRO! ME AN NOT IN THIS ISSUE LATER! DON'T LOOK FOR ME!
HA!

RE: ACTION

This month's star reader, little Jett Alquiza. He'll be spotting blacks for dad, Marlo, in no time.

And now, a special "Our Worlds At War" Re:Action...

Dear Re:Action:

Finally, a summer crossover event that is exciting, dramatic and exceptionally enjoyable reading! "Our Worlds At War" is developing very nicely, except for one thing. Killing off Arthur/Aquaman/King Orin of Atlantis is a very, very big mistake!! He's a JLA core member, for crying out loud!! Aquaman has come a long way since his son was murdered by Black Manta in the '70s; he has developed into a great character with a lot of depth (no pun intended) and a singular, and always interesting, point of view that really contributes a lot to the JLA's team dynamic. I've come to really love his role in the DCU (I was also a little disappointed with the cancellation of his title) and his relationships with my other favorite characters. Change is always good, but death is just elimination. Do not kill off Aquaman! That would be a huge mistake and a definite error in judgment. Thanks, and keep up the quality work!

SAL GRACI
QUEENS, NY

Never fear, the ultimate fate of the King of the Seas will be revealed in due time.

Dear Re: Action:

I hope it's not too late to put in my two cents on ACTION #780...

Are you honestly telling us that General Zod paid La Encantadora to plant the Kryptonite virus inside Superman with a simple kiss in ACTION COMICS #760?!?! And that after it was expunged, The General turned the virus into Kancer? That he used *Bizarro* as a punching bag to practice for his face-off with the Man of Steel? *And* that he conquered Pokolistan single-handedly and invaded Germany through the Czech Republic for a psychological edge in modern warfare?

I would be scared to death of the General if I were Superman, even if Zod hadn't broken his jaw. Superman has never, ever faced a super-powered opponent so "insane, deluded, or brilliant" before. It's as if DC had merged Doomsday and Lex Luthor into a single entity.

MICHAEL FREEMER
ADDRESS WITHHELD

The General is scary, isn't he?

Hi, Folks:

It rules that General Zod is back. How about a trade paperback: The Best of the Phantom Zone Criminals. If not that, then at least reprint the Steve Gerber miniseries with them, and the John Byrne story when Supes killed them.

Otherwise, I don't really like Our Worlds At War. The comic has moved too far away from where it started under the new creative team. The books were originally so fresh and sentimental. Classic characters like Perry, Jimmy, and the Kents had a lot to do in the movie-like environment of the early issues, which were wholly sentimental and wholly focused on the "man" of "superman."

When Loeb and Kelly first took over, they wrote the relationship between Lois and Clark as very warm and realistic, like any other happy marriage. I found it refreshing reading a comic with a married super-hero, especially one who has so lovely a bond with his wife. But as Lois becomes more and more Indiana Jones/Wonder Woman and less and less Katharine Hepburn, the charmingly intimate dynamic of the marriage is thrown off by the lack of realism. I need to see more of a connection between them than Lois wearing a red-and-white striped pajama top and Clark wearing a red-and-white striped pajama bottom. That's one part of a marriage. There's more.

MARC DIPAOLO
STATEN ISLAND, NY

Sorry you didn't care for OWAW, but it has allowed us to explore different facets of the Man of Steel, and how his relationship to Lois affects him—something each of the books will continue to explore separately.

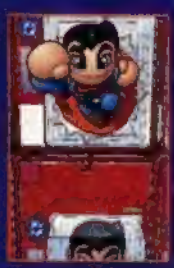
Dear Re:Action:

I've been following the "Our Worlds At War" storyline and I just had to bring up a slight oversight ("slight" meaning that it won't change the enjoyment of the story, but it would have been nice for continuity purposes). Now, in Morrison's JLA: WORLD WAR THREE, to combat Maggedon they discovered a way to transform the entire world's population into metahumans. Is there going to be any mention of this in "Our Worlds At War"? You would think that the government would hold onto this technology. And, that it would be an option. President Luthor would certainly consider it if he was willing to release Doomsday.

JAMES PINE JR.
ADDRESS WITHHELD

The transmogrifying of Earth's entire populace into metas was a one-time event. It's why Luthor sought other drastic measures like Doomsday.

NEXT WEEK in SUPERMAN #177: The holidays are here and so is the New Toyman delivered by Jolly Jeph Loeb & elves Ed McGuinness, Kevin Maguire and Cam Smith.



NEXT MONTH in ACTION #786: Danger in a Red Solar System by Joe, Pascual Ferry and Scott Hanna.

dccomics.com
KEYWORD: DC COMICS ON AOL

Goodbye! This month's cover not by Ed McGuinness and Cam Smith with colors by the Hories.

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